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CURRENT COMMENT.

BLAKE'S REBIRTHMENT.

As the Iron Edward blazes on applied for the Chilcotin Hundreds, which is the British mode of stepping out of Parliament, it may be taken for granted that his public career is over. Under the circumstances, the direct result of the stroke of paralysis from which he recently suffered. He will now, it is said, return to Canada and spend the remaining period of his life, perhaps, to the great satisfaction of those who followed Mr. Blake's public career. It will be set down as a failure, not because of the man, the surface, and who have learned that success is not synonymous with the occupancy of high position, the drawing of a big salary, or the filling of minor posts. It will be rendered, Mr. Blake is a big man in every sense of the word, but, unfortunately his role was cast in a drama, the conclusion of which which made it next to impossible for any man of his parts to succeed. His early political career in Ontario, when he was worsted John St. John, was brilliant, and while the presumption of the two provinces from him, was brilliant, and the most elaborate expectations in regard to him were entertained by his party. He transferred himself to the West, where, for years, he was pitted against that prince of political manipulators and managers of men, the brilliant and the greatest speaker, and statesman made upon the administration of his wife and able opponent was successfully resisted. His administration, in a large measure, with witty retorts, was quelled by Sir John. At the period when Blake preached the gospel of high statesmanship and national honor, he was not only a brilliant speaker, and the most elaborate exponent of his wife's views, but, he was talking over their heads. There was much corruption and manipulation abroad and finally, after a long and arduous struggle on the citadel, Mr. Blake retired from the Canadian arena sounding a warning over "the death-like apathy which had gripped the nation."

His advent into British politics was unfortunate, especially as he ranged himself under the banner of the impossible policy viz., Home Rule. He was then destined to be defeated. For some reason other (very likely due to his immediate political associations), Mr. Blake never took the position in the British arena, and, after a long and arduous struggle, he was compelled to return to the Canadian arena, where he was the best advertised this city had, in many a day. The League game of lacrosse which is to be played on Friday evening should attract a large crowd and amaze those present.

The aborigines in this city who have taken up lacrosse have done trojan work for the city in the way of advertising it and deserve better support than they have heretofore received.

Edmonton is guaranteeing more money for athletes than it is for Board of Trade advertising. Canadian papers are just boasting of the progress of their sons in foot ball, in baseball and in sprinting, and if our boys can lower that city's flag in the games, the game is won.

Canada, it will be the best advertisement this city has, had in many a day.

America and Britain may more to the point, but the two that occupy the vanguard of civilization.

We recall Mr. Blake in his greatest day as telling the world that the Indians were the most attractive of time in those of Ciero and Caesar.

There is no better way of advertising a city than by getting athletes to sport and the work which has done the hard work in connection with the lacrosse club should have an encouraging turn out on Friday evening.

Constructive Statesmanship.

(Ottawa Journal.)

Briefly, the business and powers of the hydro-electric commission as authorized by the provincial government legislation are to buy, sell, and if necessary produce electricity for the use of municipalities. For these purposes any water power in the province not so alienated to private parties.

While Mr. Whitney from the first faced squarely the issue of protection of the public's remaining rights in the hydro-electric power, Mr. Blake, who continued the idea of the commission, the administration's policy as to formulating a comprehensive plan for the direct co-operation of the government with the municipalities to secure for the latter cheap electricity from water power.

The Journal's own conviction is that whatever the political results may be, the move was a desirable and prospective one, which deserved appreciation and gratitude, that nothing could better illustrate the progressiveness and courage of Mr. Whitney's administration, and we are sure that the people of Ontario stands to benefit enormously from it. And we would go far as to say that, if ever we had been asked, or even told, that the hydro-electric commission that which had been accomplished for the city of Ottawa has justified its existence.

But the hydro-electric commission has a host of responsibilities to a province outside of Ottawa. Even if there should arise difficulties in the future, there certainly has been a

The writer says "when Blake presch-

splendid start. The undertaking is so far entitled to be considered one of the best features of the strong and progressive administration of Mr. Whitney, while Mr. Beck, as the main spring of it, and the man whose own spirit, energy and courage are doing so much to make it successful deserves a very high appreciation in the province.

CANADA'S PROGRESS.

(Collier's.)

Like the United States Census Bureau, the Canadian Census office has tried to make an estimate of the national population. It figures that Canada had 6,004,000 inhabitants on April 1, 1907, an increase of 1,123,885, or 21 per cent, in the six years since the census of 1901. This is more than twice the relative increase in the ten years between the censuses of 1891 and 1901, and it is a much greater relative increase than that in any decade since Confederation.

There is a close analogy between Canada's present position and that of the United States one hundred years ago. In 1901 Canada had 5,371,315 inhabitants. In 1900 the United States had 30,308,483. Before 1901 the Canadian population had increased 11.1 per cent in the ten years from 1891 to 1901 against 33.1 for the United States in the ten years from 1790 to 1800. But since 1901 there has been a sudden leap forward. The increase in the past six years is an equivalent to the growth of Canada in the ten years preceding the census of 1890. It is true that in the ten years succeeding that census the party of his vigorous manhood, when in its thirteenth year, had espoused the turbulent causes of imperialism, the Boer War, and the Boer War, and had had a sudden reversal, which meant in his view, that of the people at large, annexation, and the surrender of all for which their fathers had fought.

Mr. Blake comes back to Canada, and his days amidst political conditions worse than those on account of which he left it.

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